



From the Principal's Office



Back to school is an exciting time of the year. New classes, new teachers, new books, new activities – lots of fresh opportunities for learning about the world God has blessed us with. Our teachers and office staff are as busy as beavers getting everything set up for our students and families. If you need any assistance don't hesitate to give us a call at the office as we have many hands to help with the challenges that can sometimes arise – passwords, Moodle, resources, etc.

We have a back-to-school barbeque planned for September 18th from 11 am to 2 pm so set that date aside on your calendar as we would love to get a chance to say hello in person. It is often a big help in our education from a distance model to put a face to a name. It will be in the parking lot of the Zion Church (just down the hill from our offices here in Didsbury). We provide food and games and a chance to meet classmates and other families. Come and join us if you can.

"We partner with families to guide students in the development of a Biblical worldview that will forever shape their lives." This is a piece of our vision statement and something we take seriously here at NorthStar Academy. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you in educating your children and we value your input in this partnership.

May God bless you with a great school year.

Principal Randy Wood

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Dates to Remember

Sept. 1 - School Starts

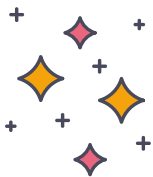
Sept. 6 - Labour Day - Office closed

Sept 18 - Welcome Back BBQ

Sept. 24 - PD Day

Sept 30 - Last day to change programs

Please see Page 9 for a detailed calendar of all upcoming events/dates to remember.



Congratulations to our Orange Shirt Day Contest winner, Emily, an NSA grade 6 student for her fantastic drawing that will be featured on our Orange Shirts! Thank you to all participants for your amazing ideas. All artwork will be displayed in our Didsbury Office.

GREAT TOOLS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Student Cafe - A great way for students to connect with each other. If you, as a student, do not have Student Cafe in Moodle, please contact cindy.lee@nsaschool.ca

Parent Lounge - This is where you as a parent will access exam passwords for your student. If you have not received an email from cindy.lee@nsaschool.ca about your Parent Moodle account, please email Cindy.

PowerSchool Student/Parent Portal -

Applies only to students taking PBR or online courses. Click on this link. <https://sis.ghsd75.ca/public/>

Students: Log in with your NorthStar Gmail. This is where you will be able to see your assignments, grades, teacher comments, and report cards.

Parents: To create a new account or log in with an existing account, click on the above link. This is where you will be able to see your child's assignments, grades, teacher comments and report cards. If you need assistance, please contact Glenna at glenna.rothfus@nsaschool.ca.

Microsoft Office - we offer a free Microsoft Office which is needed for all assignments in our online programs. Contact Cindy at cindy.lee@nsaschool.ca



If you are interested in purchasing Scholastics this year, please contact Cindy at cindy.lee@nsaschool.ca for more information.



Raz Kids, Mathletics, Reading Eggs, IXL Math are being offered to our Home Ed families only this year. If you would like access, as a Home Ed family, please contact your facilitator.



Registration is open for
2021-2022
[Click here to access forms](#)

MEET THE NSA OFFICE STAFF

Allow me to introduce myself! I'm Amanda Sadler! I have the best job! I am the Activity Coordinator at NSA. I have the privilege of setting up all the fun outings for our families! I live on an acreage with my wonderful husband, two amazing sons and our cute standard poodle.



My name is Cindy Lee. I am a homeschooling mom of five & love spending time outdoors with my family. Camping, fishing, golfing, & star gazing are just a few of the fun activities we all love to do. I joined NSA last fall as an Admin. Assistant/PBR Librarian amidst the chaos. I am looking forward to assisting our NSA families for the 2021-2022 school year.



My name is Emily Neufeld and I've been working at the NSA office for 11 years. I handle incoming registrations, report cards, diploma exams, and a variety of other administrative tasks here at the office. In my spare time, I enjoy tackling DIY projects, interior design, graphic design, crafting, & getting outside for hikes or bike rides. I'm looking forward to another great year at NSA!



My name is Glenna Rothfus. I am married & have 3 married children & 5 grandchildren. I have the tailgate of an old buck board hanging in my living room and on it is stenciled **"together is our favourite place to be."** This pretty much sums up the Joys of my life. I am one of the Administrative Assistants at NSA.

Hiya! My name is Kieren Pearson and when I'm not hard at work as Online Librarian & Educational Assistant, I'm off spending time with the people I love. I am so excited for school to start up again but I will miss summer nights at the lake, warm sunset walks while barefoot, & longboarding through town with my little sister. Even though I'll miss summer fun, I am still stoked to hit the slopes, go midnight skating, & make some amazing memories with the people I love this school year!



MEET THE NSA OFFICE STAFF



My name is Michelle Best. I love spending time with my 3 grandchildren & watching them grow & mature. Kevin & I love to spend time in our yard & doing projects around the house. I work in the Finance Department. I love helping families choose their programming & resources.

My name is Kevin Best. As a former missionary I have appreciated the programming that NSA makes available to families. Currently, I am living on an acreage near Sundre with my wife & enjoy our family coming to visit us regularly. I assist Michelle in the Finance Department.



My name is Randy Wood. I have been a teacher for 36 years & a school administrator for 25 of those. So I have lots of gray hair but I can still fish with the best of them!



My name is Thomas Stanley-Jones. I've believed in Christ for 30 years & still need help walking with Him every day. I love discovering how He has made our world (people, machines, weather, heavenly kingdom). At NSA, I dig around in the code of the Moodle Courses & try to improve what you see & study.

My name is Leah Stanley-Jones. I am married to my best friend Thomas, and we have 2 daughters ages 9 & 12. After some very challenging years, we consider ourselves very blessed that God answered prayers for living on an acreage & having awesome jobs. I have dreams of adding horses, a dairy cow, some goats/sheep to our little place of 2 dogs & 16 hens. I enjoy cycling & like the results of gardening & running (not the process! LOL) I joined the NSA staff in April of 2021 - I feel so blessed to work at NSA as the receptionist!



Well that is all of the NSA office staff and we are here to help you! We are all looking forward to an amazing year!



HOME ENVIRONMENT AND LEARNING IDEAS FOR PARENTS

Setting up Success!

1. Establishing a schedule.
2. Arrange an appropriate place for learning.
3. Gathering the resources and tech required.

All of these things are absolutely essential in being able to get a solid start to a school year at NorthStar Academy. But even more important ... starting the year with the readiness to learn. Beyond the practical examples we just listed, students will need to feel known, heard, seen, supported, and safe.

With learning happening from a distance, students can feel isolated and believe there is no one to support them. They need to know they have someone to go to when they are struggling or feel confused or frustrated. Online learning requires more attention, focus, independence, and motivation than traditional classroom learning environments. They don't have a peer or teacher physically present who can recognize the frustration and support them through it. Although they can reach out virtually to either, the responses are delayed and distant.

A supportive parent or supervisor at home is the key to setting our students up for success. Here are some ways parents and supervisors can support their student at home:

- be available to help with questions and encourage your student to reach out to their teacher when they are confused about their school work.
- stay calm so you can help them stay calm, stop and take 3 deep breaths or take a walk together and talk - then come back to the issue and talk it through to discover the real issue to solve.
- monitor their attendance to learning - students will need someone to make sure they are staying on task
- help create a structure to their day. Build a flexible, yet predictable routine. Include a simple list of activities that your student needs to complete each day.
- set goals and celebrate progress daily (even on not-so-good days) remembering its about progress and not perfection

Our mission states, **NorthStar Academy utilizes both traditional learning and innovative technology to deliver excellent Christian Education experiences. We partner with families to guide students in the development of a Biblical worldview that will forever shape their lives.** Engaged and supportive parents are a key factor in helping students succeed in learning from home. When families and schools work together as partners, students are better prepared and able to attend to their learning leading to greater achievement and success.

We look forward to partnering with you this year!

September seems to bring about mixed emotions. Some of you may be incredibly excited to hit the books! But, some of you may feel like summer just blew by and you are not quite motivated to get back to work. Additionally, the new school year and all it brings might feel a bit daunting or overwhelming to some of you.

NSA staff will be praying for you this year! We are in this together <3



I hope you had an amazing summer! I have been hard at work planning all the activities for this coming school year! We will be attending some great ones! Watch for an email coming soon explaining how the activity days work and how to register for them!

You can access our NSA Activities Google Calendar at this link: [NSA Activities Calendar](#). It will have all the most up-to-date information on it, as well as links to register for our activities! You may also see the attached calendar for upcoming Activities!

While I do my best to keep the activities on the original dates and times, that doesn't always work. The dates and/or activities are subject to change. You are responsible for having an adult supervisor attend with your students during all activities, and you will need to transport them to and from the activities. Masks may be mandatory at some venues.

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Bible Memory Verses

Bible Memory Verses
2021-2022 School Year

**The full year of Memory Verses can be
found in the Learning Commons**

YEARLY THEME: "CONNECTED, IN CHRIST"

With the past year and a half of dealing with CV-19 and the government restrictions on our lives, the importance and significance of relationships has made its way to the front of the class. God made us to be relational creatures. We see this right in the beginning of the Scriptures, where it says that God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Unfortunately, with Adam and Eve disobeying God, that relationship was broken. This past year, our relationships have been broken as well—with siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, friends, acquaintances, etc. Broken relationships hurt, but they can be mended.

Thankfully, none of this has taken God by surprise. He is omniscient (all-knowing), and He knew that there would be a break in His relationship with people. Because He knew what was going to happen with Adam and Eve, He had a plan, even before Creation began, and that plan was beautiful. People confuse this plan by thinking that they can bridge the gap between us and God, that they can earn their way into Heaven, but that is not possible, because we are all sinful beings. The only way that the relationship could be restored is to have God look upon each one of us as pure and holy. No person can state that he or she is perfectly holy, or even that he or she is a truly good person, because we have all failed to keep God's Law. All of us have sinned at one point, or many points, in our lives, and the Bible says that if we break even one of God's commandments, then we are liable for breaking all of God's Law. So, in Old Testament times, specific animals were sacrificed as a substitute for a person's sin, but this was only a temporary "fix." There had to be a permanent solution, and that permanent solution happened close to 2,000 years ago.

When my son was a lot younger, he said very innocently, "You mean that God sent Himself?" How insightful can a child be? Through the working of the Holy Spirit in a young lady named Mary, she conceived the Son of God—Jesus Christ! That young man grew up and lived a sinless life. Then, Jesus willingly laid down His life, as a substitute for man's sin, and took the judicious wrath of God, His Father, upon Himself, that was supposed to be for us. But, three days later, God raised Jesus from the dead, and He is now our perfect sacrifice, the One upon whom we can believe and have everlasting life. And how is that? Because Jesus took on the sin of the world, but more specifically, the sin of those who repent and believe on Him as their Lord and Saviour. In that way, Christian believers are Connected, "In Christ." We are brothers and sisters, through our risen Saviour. Praise our Risen Lord!

Scriptures are taken from the 1984 NIV Study Bible (a grade 7-8 reading level).

Rick Glasspell
NSA Teacher



Bible Memory Verses September 2021

Spiritual Blessing, In Christ The Glory and Headship of Jesus Christ

Ephesians 1:3-10

- 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing, in Christ.
- 4 For He chose us, in Him, before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless, in His sight. In love,
- 5 He predestined us to be adopted as His sons, through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—
- 6 to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us, in the One He loves.
- 7 In Him, we have redemption, through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace,
- 8 that He lavished on us, with all wisdom and understanding.
- 9 And He made known to us, the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposed, in Christ,
- 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in Heaven and on Earth together under one Head, even Christ.



September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Week 1		1 School Start Date ★	2	3	4
5	6 Week 2 Labour Day Office Closed	7	8 Teachers Unavailable Office closed 9:30-1:00	9	10	11
12	13 Week 3	14	15	16	17	18 Welcome Back BBQ Tentative
19	20 Week 4	21 Tentative-Cooking Lake Demonstration	22	23	24 PD Day Teachers Unavailable	25
26	27 Week 5	28 JumpingPound Demonstration Forest	29 Des Crossley Demonstration Forest	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day		
Important Reminders This calendar is subject to change. For the most up to date information, go to the NorthStar Academy home page. PD Day - Professional Development Day						